

SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

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Soil and Water Districts Commission Holds April Meeting in Columbia

The Soil and Water Districts Commission's April 8 meeting was hosted by the University of Missouri - Columbia College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the Bradford Research Center in Columbia. The commission heard updates about the fiscal 2015 cost-share fund status and supplemental cost-share allocations, a plan for the future update, and an update about component entry into the *State Average Cost List*.

The commission discussed state average costs for well drilling. The Soil and Water Conservation Program has developed a spreadsheet to help with the entry of all component costs.

Dr. Randy Miles from the University of Missouri - Columbia College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources gave a presentation about the Missouri Soil Health Assessment Center being funded with the help of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The commission and guests took a tour of the work in progress at the Missouri Soil Health Assessment Center.

The commission approved supervisor requests, one each from the Butler County and Linn County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The commission adopted the Plan for the Future Conservation Practices Subcommittee's recommendation on practice policy review and new practice programs to be implemented Jan. 1, 2016.

The commission adopted holding comments from the Scotland County Soil and Water Conservation District until the N-472 practice comes up for review as outlined in the plan for the future schedule. Scotland County was asking to expand existing livestock exclusion practice components. The commission adopted holding comments from the Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District until the grazing system lime practice comes up for review as outlined in the plan for the future schedule. Crawford County was asking to provide cost-share assistance on lime more than once for a field using DSP 3.4.

The commission approved a variance for a DSL-1 practice in Nodaway County due to an error in erosion calculation. The commission heard follow up about a request to extend maintenance life for stream buffer practices. The commission adopted establishing a one-time incentive payment for buffer maintenance extensions for N-386 (field border), N-391 (riparian forest buffer), N-393 (filter strip), or WQ-10 stream protection practices, to begin on July 1, 2015.



Dr. Randy Miles gives the Soil and Water Districts Commission a tour of the work in progress at the Missouri Soil Health Assessment Center in Columbia.

DNR Photo by Van Beydler



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The next commission meeting is tentatively to be held in southeast Missouri on June 17 at the University of Missouri Fisher Delta Research Center in Portageville. For updates about commission meetings visit <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/meetings.htm>.

Pembroke Hill High School to Represent Missouri at the National Envirothon Competition in July

Teams of high school students from 16 schools participated at the Missouri Envirothon this year. The 17th Missouri State Envirothon was held at the Capital West Christian Event Center in Jefferson City on May 1, 2015. High school students throughout Missouri participated in this year's event.

The winner of the Missouri Envirothon was Pembroke Hill High School. Team members are Eric Koch, Domenico DiMare, Saurabh Goel, Francesco DiMare and Devon Dietrich. The advisors are SueAnn and Rick Wright. They will represent Missouri at the national event this year that will be held on the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield in late July. Advisor SueAnn Wright remarked after the winner was announced, "We are very honored to represent Missouri at the national event this summer and look forward to the challenges that are ahead."



The Pembroke Hill High School Envirothon team: Francesco DiMare, Domenico DiMare, Saurabh Goel, Devon Dietrich. Not pictured: Eric Koch, team captain.

DNR Photo by Van Beydler

At the Envirothon, five-member teams take a series of field station tests that focus on five topic areas—soil and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and an environmental issue. The 2015 topic focused on Urban and Community Forestry. The teams also prepare and give an oral presentation to panels of judges who evaluate each team on its problem-solving abilities, oral presentation skills and plan to help solve the specific problem. The Top 10 winners are as follows:

1st place
2nd place
3rd place
4th place
5th place
6th place
7th place
8th place
9th place
10th place

Pembroke Hill High School
Parkway North High School
Licking High School
Glendale High School
Camdenton High School
Houston High School
Jamestown High School
Smith Cotton High School
McKinley High School
Blue Springs High School

The top resource winners were Pembroke Hill High School for Forestry, Soils and Oral Presentation; Parkway North High School for Wildlife and Aquatics, and Licking High School for Current Issue.

Teams participating represented the best and brightest of high school teens across Missouri. At the state level, the Envirothon is sponsored by the Missouri Association of Conservation Districts, 114 local soil and water conservation districts, the Missouri Employees Association, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Missouri Extension, and the Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Society. To see more photos taken at the 2015 Envirothon, visit www.swcd.mo.gov/internal/envirothon-gallery.htm.



DNR Photo by Van Beydler

State Fair Woman in Agriculture Contest - Deadline to Apply is June 5

Applications are currently being accepted for the third annual Missouri Woman in Agriculture Contest, hosted by the Missouri State Fair to honor the significant contributions women make to the state's leading industry. Fair Director Mark Wolfe announced that the title will be awarded in two age divisions, with each winner receiving a \$1,000 donation for a non-profit, agriculture-related cause of her choice.

Contest applications and rules are available online at mostatefair.com/ag-contest, with entries being accepted through June 5. Interested applicants can also receive a copy of the documents in the mail, by calling the Fair at 800-422-FAIR (3247).

Women ages 31 and older will be eligible for the Missouri Woman in Agriculture Award, and women 18-30 will be eligible for the Missouri Woman in Agriculture Rising Star

Award. Honorees will be selected based on several factors, including leadership roles in Missouri agriculture, endeavors to perpetuate the industry and Fair participation. Each of the winners will receive a plaque and \$1,000 donation to a non-profit, agriculture-related cause of her choice. A runner-up in each age division will receive a recognition plaque and all entrants will receive a certificate of acknowledgement. 2013 and 2014 Woman in Agriculture first place winners are not eligible to apply; however, previous applicants and second place winners are eligible to apply in 2015.

Tammy Bartholomew, of Archie, was the 2014 recipient of the Missouri Woman in Agriculture Award and the Rising Star Award winner was Ashlyn Richardson, of Lincoln. The Missouri FFA Leadership Fund was the recipient of Bartholomew's donation and the Missouri State Fair Foundation Youth in Agriculture Scholarship Fund received Richardson's. Contest winners will be honored Aug. 20 at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia.



DNR Photo by Van Beydler

Conservation Mapping Tool (CMT) Ending on June 30

At the training conference in December, the Soil and Water Conservation Program announced as of June 30, 2015, the Conservation Mapping Tool (CMT) will no longer be available. Program staff have been working with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to combine mapping tools using Toolkit to avoid overlap.

If there are conservation plans in CMT that have not been entered in Toolkit, districts may want to consider printing the plans from CMT due to the uncertainty of being able to view them. After we have finalized the instructions and testing the process, the program will start phasing more districts into using this process instead of CMT to meet the June 30 deadline.

RUSLE2 Updates

All districts should take a look at the new updates in the RUSLE2 to become familiar with the changes. A RUSLE2 tutorial, instructions, and training videos are available online. Contact your district coordinator for more information.

Jackson County SWCD Worm Tunnel Educates Visitors at Missouri Earth Day in Jefferson City



Dave Fry from the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District talks to Earth Day visitors about how worms help avoid soil erosion in the worm tunnel at the Missouri State Capitol. DNR Photo by Van Beydler



Dave Fry and the worm tunnel at the Earth Day at the Missouri State Capitol. DNR Photo by Van Beydler



Students at the Earth Day event learn about soil and water from Mark Brandt, Resource Conservationist in the Jefferson City NRCS Field Office, at the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) booth.

DNR Photo by Van Beydler

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